

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

In the Claims, please cancel claims 14 and 22 and amend claims 13 and 16 as follows:

1-12. (canceled)

13. (previously presented) A process for analyzing gene function altering an endogenous property of an extravascular cell comprising: [[a]] injecting a naked polynucleotide encoding [[the]] a gene into a blood vessel lumen, *in vivo*[[;]], and [[b]] increasing permeability [[in]] of the blood vessel[[;]], thereby [[c]] delivering the naked polynucleotide to [[an]] the extravascular cell outside of the blood vessel via the increased permeability, wherein the gene is expressed; and, d) analyzing the effects of expression of the gene on the cell thereby altering the endogenous property of the cell.

14. (canceled)

15. (previously presented) The process of claim 13 wherein the gene encodes a protein.

16. (previously presented) A process for analyzing gene function delivering an oligonucleotide to an extravascular cell in a mammal comprising: [[a]] injecting a naked oligonucleotide into a blood vessel lumen in the mammal, in vivo[[;]], and [[b]] increasing permeability [[in]] of the blood vessel[[;]] thereby [[c]] delivering the naked oligonucleotide to [[an]] the extravascular cell outside of the blood vessel via the increased permeability, wherein delivery of the oligonucleotide to the cell results in decreased expression of [[the]] a gene; and, d) analyzing the effects of decreased expression of the gene on the cell.

17. (previously presented) The process of claim 16 wherein the oligonucleotide consists of a single strand oligonucleotide.

18. (previously presented) The process of claim 17 wherein the single strand oligonucleotide consists of anti-sense oligonucleotide.

19. (previously presented) The process of claim 18 wherein the anti-sense oligonucleotide consists of an artificial oligonucleotide.

20. (previously presented) The process of claim 16 wherein the oligonucleotide consists of double strand nucleic acid.

21. (previously presented) The process of claim 20 wherein the double strand oligonucleotide comprises RNA.
22. (canceled)
23. (previously presented) The process of claim 21 wherein the double strand oligonucleotide consists of a nucleic acid sequence comprising 10 to 50 bases.
24. (previously presented) The process of claim 23 wherein the double strand oligonucleotide consists of a nucleic acid sequence comprising 18 to 25 bases.
25. (previously presented) The process of claim 16 wherein the oligonucleotide comprises sequence that is similar to a portion of the gene sequence.
26. (previously presented) The process of claim [[22]] 16 wherein the gene is an endogenous gene.
27. (previously presented) The process of claim [[22]] 16 wherein the gene is a viral gene.
28. (previously presented) The process of claim 13 wherein analyzing gene function comprises drug design.
29. (previously presented) The process of claim 16 wherein analyzing gene function comprises drug design.